

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01 IO-10 ITF-05 SCA-01 IGA-01

SR-02 ORM-01 SCS-03 AID-05 FDRE-00 /105 W

----- 068067

R 081420Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3171

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 1346

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PINS, VS

SUBJ: AP CORRESPONDENTS SAIGON AND AMERICANS CAPTURED IN
BAN ME THUOT

1. DURING MAY 6 COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY FONMIN RACZ,
MCAULIFFE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO FONOFF FOR INFORMING
EMBASSY BUDAPEST ON MAY 3 OF MESSAGE WHICH GOH HAD TRANSMITTED
FROM AP JOURNALISTS SAIGON TO AP HEADQUARTERS (BUDAPEST 1272).
HE SAID EMBASSY HAD IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATED THIS SAME INFORMATION
TO DEPARTMENT TO INSURE THAT INTERESTED PARTIES IN U.S.
RECEIVED SPEEDY NOTIFICATION.

2. MCAULIFFE THEN REFERRED TO HIS APRIL 29 CONVERSATION
WITH RACZ (BUDAPEST 1240) ABOUT WELFARE OF U.S. CIVILIAN
MISSIONARIES TAKEN CAPTIVE BY VIETCONG MANY WEEKS AGO DURING
FIGHTING AROUND BAN ME THUOT. HE STRESSED THAT ALL TEN
MISSIONARIES ARE PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS WITH NO AFFILIATION,
TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, WITH ANY GOVERNMENT; HE
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EMPHASIZED THAT WITH WITHDRAWAL OF ALL AMERICAN REPRESENTA-

TION FROM VIETNAM, USG MUST NOW RELY ON HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS BY OTHER NATIONS TO EFFECT THEIR RELEASE; AND HE EXPRESSED THE EXPECTATION THAT, WITH THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN VIETNAM, HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS WOULD FIND IT MUCH EASIER ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE PRG OFFICIALDOM AND USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO RELEASE THE MISSIONARIES FROM CAPTIVITY. MCAULIFFE THEN ASKED WHETHER BUDAPEST HAD RELAYED THE AMERICAN REQUEST TO ITS PEOPLE IN VIETNAM AND WHETHER IT HAD RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE. RACZ EVADED THE QUESTION SAYING THAT FONOFF HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION ON FATE OF MISSIONARIES; BUT HE PROMISED TO RELAY ANY INFORMATION JUST AS SOON AS RECEIVED. MCAULIFFE EXPRESSED MILD DISMAY OBSERVING THAT RECENT REPORTS ON HUNGARIAN NEWS MEDIA HAD HIGHLIGHTED RAPID RETURN TO NORMAL LIFE PATTERN IN VIETNAM UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION. RETURN TO NORMALCY SHOULD MAKE IT RELATIVELY EASY FOR HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS TO LODGE REQUEST WITH PRG OFFICIALDOM; AND RETURN OF NORMALCY WOULD CERTAINLY INCLUDE RELEASE FROM CAPTIVITY OF FOREIGNERS WHO WERE SIMPLY CIVILIAN BYSTANDERS.

3. RACZ SAID THAT GOH PLANS TO REMOVE HUNGARIAN MEMBERS ICCS FROM VIETNAM AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY A) BECAUSE PURPOSE FOR WHICH ICCS CREATED NO LONGER EXISTS; B) BECAUSE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN VIETNAM HAS BEEN EXPENSIVE, FAR MORE SO THAN BUDAPEST HAD ANTICIPATED; AND C) BECAUSE HUNGARIAN PRESENCE IN ICCS HAD PROVED POLITICALLY AWKWARD AND HAD STRAINED ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN SEVERAL DIRECTIONS. MCAULIFFE COMMENTED THAT SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE A DUTY AND AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF WORLD PEACE AND POLITICAL STABILITY. CANADA AND NORWAY, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES AGAIN AND AGAIN IN RECENT DECADES BY ASSUMING THANKLESS PEACE-KEEPING AND TRUCE SUPERVISORY ROLES IN TROUBLE SPOTS. RACZ SAID HUNGARY HAD NOT SOUGHT SUCH DUTIES IN THE PAST AND THAT HE SERIOUSLY DOUBTED IT WOULD DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, RACZ SAID HE BELIEVED THAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFTER A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD IN SOUTH, ALL OF VIETNAM WOULD BE REUNIFIED. DRV AND PRG PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND POLICY HAD ALWAYS ENVISAGED THAT EVENTUAL OUTCOME; AND SO HAD BOTH EARLIER GENEVA AND MORE RECENT PARIS AGREEMENTS. WHILE THERE ARE ETHNIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, THE YEARS OF STRIFE AND THE SIZEABLE MOVEMENTS OF POPULATIONS WHICH THEY CAUSED HAVE SERVED TO REDUCE THE DIFFERENCES; AND IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT MANY SENIOR DRV OFFICIALS WERE

BORN AND REARED AND RETAIN FAMILIAL TIES IN SOUTH. SEVERAL
GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING WESTERN ONES, HAVE RECOGNIZED PRG
AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING BODY IN SAIGON; BUT RACZ SAID
THAT HE EXPECTED THAT IN DUE COURSE, AFTER SAIGON
GOVERNMENT HAS RECTIFIED THE "SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENT" THAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE 1954, THE VIETNAMESE
WORKING TOGETHER AND UNHINDERED BY FOREIGNERS WILL ARRIVE
AT FORMULATIONS THAT WILL MAKE THE ENTIRE NATION ONE AGAIN.
MCAULIFFE

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